## CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

### A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the community—new faces are seen in the congregation; regular communicants display added zeal.

THINGS LEFT UNDONE.

Zeph.3:2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Lord; she drew not near her God."

INTRO. The judgment upon Jerusalem, the great city. Woe to her that is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city. What a category of negatives! God had spoken to Jerusalem many times, but she obeyed not the voice. Discipline had knocked at her doors, but- she received not correction. Signs and tokens had been given her, but- she trusted not her Lord. Hands of divine love had been outstretched for her healing and comfort, but- she drew not near to her God. Jerusalem missed her visitation, Jerusalem made the great refusal.

I. We are condemned less by the evil we have done than By the good we have not done. We are going to be saved not because of the vices we avoided, but because of the virtues we embraced.

1. Spurgeon, once the guest of a man who did nothing but brag about his virtues, and they were all negative birtues. Finally, the great preacher, exasperated beyond measure, exclaimed, "Man, you are simply a bundle of negatives. You dont drink, you dont smoke, you dont gamble, you dont swear- what in the name of goodness do you do?!"

2. Jesus' picture of the Last Jugment. Those on the right had of the Father were there, not because they had not done evil, but because they had done good- they fed and clothed people, they visited and comforted them.

On the other hand those on the left hand of the Father were there, not because they had done evil, but because they had not done anything good- they had not clothed and fed and visited and comforted anybody.

3. The Book of Golden Deeds is a big book.

But the book of Things Left Undone is a far bigger tome: our aircastles, our unrealized ideals, our abortive good intentions; our unkept resolutions; the letters of love and sympathy we meant to write but did'nt,

The things we have left undone, compared with our actual virtues are as an election sheet to a calling card.

II. <u>This teaching applied to every-day life,</u> how would we fare in its judgment?

The hungry hearts all around us, the damaged and sta starving souls, God s children in need- and that awful pronouncement-Inasmuch as ye did it NOT..."

A student is not expelled from college because of his too close application to his studies.

No workman is discharged because he applies himself to his task too zealously.

A man does not fail in business because he is too attentive to duty.

Likewise, the appaling meagerness of our spiritual attainments is not due to excessivee enthusiasm, to readin the Bible and praying too much, nor to working for the Lord: Spiritual meagerness is due to complacency and neglect, to sloth and indifference.

III. <u>The true sacrament of Life is the sacrament of Service</u>

1. Zephaniah's gospel may feel like chilled steel in its austerity, yet it is a flaming sword whose fires pierc our innermost soul and conscience.

2. The character of God is righteous, and man's character must comform to the divine.

Religion and morality are inseparable. Neither will endure for long without the other.

I'm often told to preach religion and leave the morals of the people along. I should not be so condemnatory of their evil doing and so urgent for the well-doing.

The author of our text claims that our daily commonplaces are the material for our discipline and the fabric of our salvation. Zephaniah stands ethically with Jesus. And every preacher of the word should stand the same way.

Take that Last Judgment scene again. It is very significant that the candidates for heaven were not called upon to pass a theological examination. Theirs was the test of every-day life- how they met its needs. The real test of religion is right in the street, in business, in the home.

To test your life by the things left undone on Monday and Tuesday and Wed. and Thurs. and Friday and Sat. as well as on Sunday is the severest test to which you can put your religion.

The emphasis of the Sermon of the Mount is ethical- the application of religion to the needs of daily life, the application of the principles of right living to the social order of whichwe are a part.

Conc. Yesterday someone did you a wrong, but instead of forgiving him you took the other side of the road ~~and left him~~ offended. You did not forgive.

Last week you had a chance to help a poor fellow along, to give him just the encouragement he needed, but you let him pass by. A month ago ~~you~~ a young friend of yours was battling against a temptation against severe odds; you had a chance to fortify him, but you did'nt do anything. Quite recently you thot to write a nice letter to mother or father or sister od some loyal friend, but you neglected your thot and failed to write that letter.

Fathers- you owe your children more than bread and shelter and education- you owe them your love and companionship. Mothers, your daughters need more than fine clothes and a debut into society- they need your smiles and carresses, your confidence and encouragement, they need the comprehension of your true mother-heart.

Boys and girls, your parents need your considerateness and obedience, the lavish love of your young hearts.

The time comes to all of us when we would give our right hand to recall the harsh word, the cutting manner, the unkind deed.

"There comes an hour of sadness
With the setting of the sun,
Not for the sins committed
But the things I have not done."

Jerusalem lost its soul because of its negative reactions. Thru sheer neglect of opportunities to be of service folks find themselves in outer darkness.

May Jerusalem be a warning to us and may God help us to be examples of Xn does to others.